

Message Text

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SUBJ: UN RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE: SECRETARIAT SUPPORT SERVICES

REF: USUN 537

1. SUMMARY: BUILDING ON PROGRESS REPORTED IN REFTEL, FEBRUARY 25 AND 28 MEETINGS OF UN RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE'S CONTACT GROUP COMPLETED CONSIDERATION OF SECTION VIII OF CHAIRMAN'S CONSOLIDATED TEXT CONCERNING SECRETARIAT SUPPORT SERVICES. CONTENTIOUS ISSUES CONCERNING A DEPUTY TO THE SYG FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (A "DIRECTOR GENERAL"), THE PERSONNEL SYSTEM, AND INFORMATION ACTIVITIES WERE POSTPONED FOR LATER CONSIDERATION. INCONCLUSIVE CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN TO THE NORWEGIAN OFFER TO HOST THE MAY SESSION OF THE CONTACT GROUP IN OSLO. THE NEXT MEETING MARCH 1 WILL BEGIN CONSIDERATION OF PROBLEM AREA V CONCERNING OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. CONTINUING THE DISCUSSION REPORTED IN REFTEL, CONTACT GROUP OF UN RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE OPENED ITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FEBRUARY 25 MEETING WITH CONSIDERATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS FUNCTION AND THE PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING FUNCTION. THE EC-9 WOULD ACCEPT NOTHING MORE AT THIS POINT THAN A "CLOSE INTERRELATIONSHIP" BETWEEN THE TWO.

3. THE G-77 SPOKESMAN ACCEPTED A US DEL SUGGESTION TO DELETE PARA 1(B) OF SECTION VIII OF CONSOLIDATED TEXT IN VIEW OF THE

SAME ISSUE BEING ADDRESSED IN SECTION V ON OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

4. DISCUSSION OF PARA 1(C) CONCERNING THE UNIT FOR SERVICING MEETINGS AND FOLLOW-UP BECAME CONFUSED. AUSTRALIA AND THE EC-9 SUGGESTED ASSIGNING AT LEAST THE SERVICING FUNCTION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CONFERENCE SERVICES. THE US DEL SUGGESTED THAT THE SERVICING FUNCTION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS PART OF THE RESIDUAL ESA FUNCTIONS, I.E., THAT LARGE PART OF ESA ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL REMAIN AFTER THE RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION FUNCTIONS ARE MORE CLEARLY DEFINED. CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUE ENDED WITH THE CHAIRMAN NOTING AGREEMENT ON THE NEED FOR THE SYG TO IMPROVE THE PREPARATORY SERVICING FOR MEETINGS AND THE MONITORING AND FOLLOW-UP OF THEM.

5. THE MAJOR ISSUE AT THE FEBRUARY 28 MEETING WAS THE SUBMISSION BY THE SUDANESE DEL OF A PROPOSAL FOR CREATING THE POST OF DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION TO SERVE AS DEPUTY TO THE SYG FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. THIS PROPOSAL WAS SUPPORTED STRONGLY BY THE DELEGATIONS OF CANADA, SWEDEN, AUSTRALIA, EGYPT, FINLAND, NORWAY, NEW ZEALAND AND PORTUGAL. THE DELEGATIONS OF THE USSR, POLAND AND JAPAN SPOKE AGAINST THE PROPOSAL AS BEING UNNECESSARY LAYERING, PLACING MORE IMPORTANCE ON ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES THAN THE UN'S PRIMARY PURPOSE WHICH IS PEACEKEEPING, FRAGMENTING THE SECRETARIAT, AND CAUSING A "GRADE INFLATION" IN THE SECRETARIAT. THE US DEL, JOINED BY THE EC-9 SPOKESMAN, URGED THAT WHILE ALL OPTIONS SHOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE CONSIDERED, THE CONTACT GROUP IS NOT READY TO DECIDE THIS ISSUE NOW SINCE IT IS FOR THE MOMENT CONFINING ITSELF TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF SECRETARIAT FUNCTIONS RATHER THAN ORGANIZATIONAL UNITS. HOWEVER, THE US DEL REMINDED THE GROUP THAT THE ORGANIZATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF THESE FUNCTIONS MUST BE CONSIDERED AT SOME POINT. THE LACK OF G-77 SOLIDARITY ON THE ISSUE WAS INDICATED BY THE ABSENCE OF COMMENT FROM THE G-77 SPOKESMAN.

6. THE CHAIRMAN NOTED GENERAL AGREEMENT NOT TO CONSIDER AT THIS STAGE THE ISSUES CONCERNING PERSONNEL RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING (PARA 1(E)) AND INFORMATION ACTIVITIES (PARA 1(F)).

7. LENGTHY, BUT INCONCLUSIVE, CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN TO THE NORWEGIAN OFFER TO INVITE THE NEXT SESSION OF THE CONTACT GROUP TO MEET IN OSLO, MAY 16-27. THE SECRETARY WAS INSTRUCTED TO GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE POSSIBLY CONFLICTING MEETINGS OF THE CPC, THE COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW AND APPRAISAL, THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,

AND UNICEF.

8. THE NEXT MEETING TUESDAY (MARCH 1) AFTERNOON WILL
BEGIN CONSIDERATION OF SECTION V ON OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES.
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